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**EQUATORIAL GUINEA PRESIDENT PLEDGES LEGAL REFORM**

**MALABO** (July 1, 2010) – Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial) President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo pledged to reform legal institutions in a historic speech at the 2010 Global Forum in Cape Town, South Africa. Judicial system reform is part of a broader reform effort, which was laid out by President Obiang in his address to world leaders, CEOs, and the media.

President Obiang made clear his intentions to review and continue programs already in place as well as to create new programs to bring Equatorial Guinea into the future.

“We will invite a delegation from the African Union to help us review and continue the reforms we have already initiated of our legal institutions, and to prepare and adopt a new legal code that drives the country into the future and ensures judicial credibility,” President Obiang said in the speech.

During the address, President Obiang also touched upon press freedom and the Government’s intention to support the activities of the Free Press Association of Equatorial Guinea (ASOPGE).

“Press freedom is guaranteed by law. Accordingly, we have the Free Press Association of Equatorial Guinea (ASOPGE). The Government will take measures to support the financing of their activities to allow it to act with independence and freedom,” President Obiang said.

Equatorial Guinea is committed to the reform efforts discussed in President Obiang’s speech and continues to make progress everyday. The 2010 Global Forum, hosted by CNN, TIME and FORTUNE, took place June 26 – 28 in Cape Town, South Africa.

***About Equatorial Guinea***

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial) is the only Spanish-speaking country in Africa, and one of the smallest nations on the continent. In the late-1990s, American companies helped discover the country’s oil and natural gas resources, which only within the last five years began contributing to the global energy supply. Equatorial Guinea is now working to serve as a pillar of stability and security in its region of West Central Africa. The country will host the 2011 Summit of the African Union. For more information, visit <http://www.guineaequatorialpress.com>.

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